

3-26-15

SENATE JUDICIARY  
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Exhibit No. 7  
Date: 3/26/15  
Bill No. HB 477  
Stacy Young  
P.O. Box 842  
Polson, Mt. 59860

Montana Senate  
P.O. Box 200500  
Helena, Mt. 59620-0500

Dear Senate Committee:

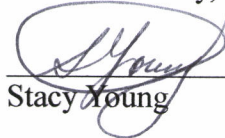
I'm a Democrat, I have a Master of Social Work degree and I'm a fourth-generation Montanan, I've worked in Oregon, Washington, and Montana in the medical field, with hospice care and other specialties. I am here today to urge your support for H.B. 477. It gives Montanan's choice where currently there is none.

Please consider my situation: A Montana family member of mine, disturbingly, had no choice in her death when I was a young girl. A second Montana family member, with a chronic illness was rendered "no voice to make a choice" by intentional over-sedation. A traumatic death ensued which still affects me, the children and our extended family to this day. Now, a third Montana family member is moving closer to a similar circumstance. My point is this; Patient choice is *not* happening *right now* in Montana. Medical personnel are so empowered *already* that citizens have *currently* been unable to stop on their own, this expanding framework of physician-driven control-over and abuse of patients.

If this trend is allowed to progress, licensed physicians will be granted unprecedented influence over patient choice. Do we really want another human being to have such power over us—power that even trumps that of a family member entrusted with the patient's signed medical power of attorney? I don't want medical personnel stifling my loved ones' voices and traumatizing patient and the patients family members alike. There is too much overreach already by doctors, hospitals and medical facility personnel now. It's happened before to others. It's starting to happen again in my own family.

I vote Democrat because it's the party that hears the voices of and looks out for the little people. Your vote in favor of H.B. 477 will mean the medical community will no longer be allowed to get rid of bothersome or botched medical cases. I urge you as Democrats to look out for the little guy and gal and give Montanan's their right to their choices *and* their own voices. Please vote "Yes" for H.B. 477 and against physician-assisted suicide.

Yours Sincerely,

  
Stacy Young